

Appl. No. 10/801,388

REMARKS

These Remarks are in response to the Office action mailed February 28th, 2007. Claims 1 and 3-12 remain pending in the application. Applicant appreciates Examiner's careful review of the present application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PcMRP for Windows, Version 7.70A, 1/6/03, Software Arts Consulting Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "PcMRP"), and further in view of Oracle[®] Bills of Material User's Guide, Release 11i, June 2002, Oracle[®] (hereinafter referred to as "OraBOM").

Claims 1 and 3-7

Claim 1 recites in part:

'a BOM sorting module for accessing the original BOM file and the part specification file, for sorting parts in the original BOM file into surface mount device (SMD) parts, pin through hole (PTH) parts, and empty parts according to the assembly methods in the part specification file, for generating a plurality of sub-files, and for integrating all the sub-files into an executable BOM file that is to be stored in the database server'.

Applicant submits that neither PcMRP nor OraBOM, taken alone or in combination, teaches or otherwise suggests the invention having the above-described features as currently set forth in claim 1.

PcMRP discloses a function for sorting BOMs by Part Number, by Root Number, or by Item Number (see page 166, lines 1-4). PcMRP

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further discloses an option for auditing the BOM file (see pages 166, lines 26-31).

OraBOM discloses a pick list, which is a report that lists all component requirements sorted by supply type for a particular discrete job, repetitive schedule, or production line (see the page footered 'Glossary-51', 1st column, lines 21-24).

However neither PcMRP nor OraBOM disclose any means for sorting parts in the BOM file *according to assembly methods*, wherein the parts in the BOM file can be sorted into surface mount devices (SMD) parts, pin through hole (PTH) parts, and empty parts. This sorting means based on assembly methods is distinct from the sorting means disclosed by PcMRP and OraBOM. That is, neither PcMRP nor OraBOM teach or suggest the feature of *'a BOM sorting module for accessing the original BOM file and the part specification file, for sorting parts in the original BOM file into surface mount device (SMD) parts, pin through hole (PTH) parts, and empty parts according to the assembly methods in the part specification file'*, as set forth in claim 1 (see para. [0018] on pages 5-6 of the present specification).

Furthermore, PcMRP discloses a method for creating a desired address book by choosing desired data, and for merging data with a document (see pages 59, Step One, Step Two, and Step Three). However, PcMRP fails to disclose how to generate a plurality of sub-files, and integrate the plurality of sub-files into *an executable BOM file for storing output of a BOM sorting system*, wherein the output is executable BOMs that satisfy manufacturing requirements (see para. [0017] on pages 4-5 of the present specification). It is apparent that the address book created by merging several kinds of data (i.e., Salutation, Contact Name, and Title) has no function of storing any output that satisfies manufacturing requirements.

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That is, PcMRP fails to teach or suggest the feature of *'a BOM sorting module ... for generating a plurality of sub-files, and for integrating all the sub-files into an executable BOM file that is to be stored in the database server'*, as set forth in claim 1 (see paras. [0021] and [0022] on pages 6-7 of the present specification). Additionally, applicant asserts that OraBOM does not teach or suggest the above-highlighted feature either. Furthermore, applicant submits that the combination of references does not teach or suggest the above-highlighted feature either.

For at least the above reasons, applicant submits that claim 1 is unobvious and patentable over PcMRP in view of OraBOM under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are requested.

Dependent claims 3-7 include all the subject matter of independent claim 1, and incorporate additional subject matter therein respectively. Therefore, claims 3-7 should also be allowable.

Claims 8-11

Claim 8 recites in part:

'sorting parts in the original BOM file into surface mount device (SMD) parts, pin through hole (PTH) parts, and empty parts according to assembly methods in the part specification file'.

For at least reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to claim 1, applicant asserts that neither PcMRP nor OraBOM, taken alone or in combination, teaches or otherwise suggests the invention having the above-described limitations as currently set forth in claim 8.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 8 is unobvious and patentable over PcMRP in view of OraBOM under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 8 are requested.

Dependent claims 9-11 include all the subject matter of independent claim 8, and incorporate additional subject matter thereinto, respectively. Therefore, claims 9-11 should also be allowable.

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites in part:

'using a BOM sorting module in a designing computer to connect to the database server via a database connection module of the designing computer and a database management module of the database server, so as to integrate a plurality of sub-files into said executable BOM file, wherein said sub-files are generated by sorting parts in the original BOM file into surface mount device (SMD) parts, pin through hole (PTH) parts, and empty parts according to assembly methods in the part specification file'.

Applicant refers to and relies on the above assertions made in relation to similar features of claims 1 and 8.

For at least the above reasons, applicant submits that neither PcMRP nor OraBOM, taken alone or in combination, teaches or otherwise suggests the invention having the above-highlighted feature(s) as currently set forth in claim 12.

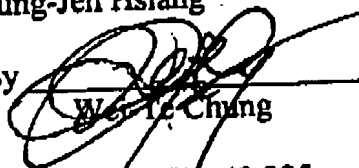
Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 12 is unobvious and patentable over PcMRP in view of OraBOM under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 12 are requested.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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